

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action dated January 6, 2009. With this response, claims 1 and 32 are amended, claims 16, 17, 43 and 44 are cancelled, and all pending claims 1, 3-15, 18-32, 34-42, and 45-56 are presented for reconsideration and favorable action.

In the Office Action, claims 17 and 44 were indicated as containing allowable subject matter. With this response, independent claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter from dependent claim 17. Similarly, independent claim 32 has been amended to include the subject matter from dependent claim 44. Additionally, applicant notes that language inserted in the previous amendment has been removed from independent claims 1 and 32.

It is believed that the present application is in condition for allowance. Consideration and favorable action are respectfully requested.

It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed. However, the absence of a reply to a specific rejection, issue, or comment, including the Office Action's characterizations of the art, does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue, or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above may not be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper, and the amendment or cancellation of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment or cancellation. Applicant reserves the right to prosecute the rejection claims in further prosecution of this or related applications.

The Director is authorized to charge any fee deficiency required by this paper or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-1123.

Respectfully submitted,  
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